

## April 29, 2009 - Murtha: \$31 million in Stimulus Funds Announced for Local Sewer Projects

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, announced today that the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, has designated \$31 million in the recently passed economic stimulus bill for sewer and water projects in Cambria, Fayette, and Greene Counties.

The Department of Agriculture announced the selection of more than \$615.8 million in water and environmental projects that are being funded immediately and will help provide safe drinking water and improved wastewater treatment systems for rural towns and communities.

"The purpose of the Economic Stimulus Bill was to put Americans back to work, to jumpstart our economy, and to make critical investments in our nation's infrastructure," said Murtha. Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in February with his support.

"We have put hundreds-of-millions of dollars into sewage and water projects over the years," added Murtha. "Ensuring that these resources are in place is absolutely key to attracting new jobs, economic growth, and furthering the redevelopment of our communities. Addressing the wild-cat sewers and eliminating failing on-lot systems is critical to cleaning up our streams and rivers."

In Cambria County, \$14,233,000 will be used for the Pegasus Sewer Authority to extend sewer lines in Conemaugh and Richland Townships specifically in the areas of Eastside/Frankstown Road, Roberts Road, Bon Air, and Cover Hill. A gravity sewage collection system, coupled with a pump station, residential grinder pumps, force mains, pressure sewers, and an interceptor will be constructed to serve approximately 1216 residents, including 316 new households which currently rely on malfunctioning on-lot systems that discharge directly into the stream. The project will consist of approximately 110,000 LF of sanitary sewer pipe and appurtenances.

In Fayette County, \$5,465,800 will be used for the Menallen Township Sewer Authority to begin Phase 3 of the Jennings Run area sewage improvement project. The project consists of the installation of approximately 27,300 linear feet of sewer line along Misty Meadows, Herring Lane, Fan Hollow Road, Haddenville Road, and the unsewered portion of the Colonial Heights Area. Approximately 129 new households will be added to the line during this phase. Also, the project will expand the Upper Middletown Sewage Treatment Plant, a steel extended air plant constructed in 1970. Upgrades to the plant consist of the removal of the older steel treatment plant and the construction of a new treatment unit with upgrades to improve efficiency of plant: UV disinfection (eliminate chlorine), equalization tank, sludge holding tank and sludge drying beds. Murtha was able to secure \$1.9 million for Phase I of this project in 2004.

In Greene County, \$11,696,500 will be used for the Lower Ten Mile Run, Phase II to install 15,600 linear feet of sanitary sewers, 1,000 linear feet of force main, and two pump stations providing service to a rural population of 4,364. Extension and expansion of the Mather and Williamstown waste water treatment plants are also planned since they are in violation of PA Department of Environmental Protection requirements because they are considered to be "hydraulically overloaded." The project extensions and upgrades will provide a safe and dependable sewage disposal system to current and future residents and businesses, while eliminating the health hazards due to malfunctioning on-lot systems. Murtha was able to secure \$750,000 for Phase I of this project in 2006.

"Aging water and waste infrastructure systems threaten the ability of rural communities to provide clean, reliable drinking water to residents and protect precious environmental resources," said U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom

Vilsack. "These investments will help bring increased economic benefits to rural America by providing needed water, water systems and creating jobs."

USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental Program provides loans and grants to ensure that the necessary investments are made in water and wastewater infrastructure to deliver safe drinking water and protect the environment in rural areas. More information about USDA rural Development can be found at [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov). Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the terms of the loan or grant agreement.

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